

ADECA

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. HARRISON
DIRECTOR

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FY 2005 FUNDING CYCLE

GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENT

**401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36103**

June 2004

**FY 2005
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY:**Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

John D. Harrison, Director
401 Adams Ave.
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

PROGRAM STAFF:

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RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1998 to assist organizations in acquiring, developing, or improving trail and trail-related resources. Eligible applicants include federal and state agencies, local governments and private sector organizations (see eligible organizations and agencies). Only one open RTP or Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant is allowed per jurisdiction. Jurisdictions must close such active grants by August 1, 2004, to be eligible to compete for FY 2005 grant assistance,

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Estimated Available	\$950,000
Maximum Grant Amount	\$80,000
Matching Percentage	20%
Matching Source	Cash, Employee Labor, Donations
Eligible Activities	New Development, Renovation, Acquisition, Environmental & Safety Education
Application Deadline	Must be Postmarked August 20, 2004
Project Completion Date	October 1, 2007

DEFINITIONS:

ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. Trail design criteria developed by the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas.
ADECA	Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The state administering agency for the RTP.
ARTAB	Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board. Appointment of an advisory board is required by RTP legislation. Alabama has an 11 member board that advises the Director of ADECA on issues involving the RTP grant program.
Diversified Trail Use	The requirement of the RTP is that not less than 40 percent of the program funds be used for multiuse (diversified) trails or trail-related projects in the state. The project should either focus on using the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes for one trail, or provide for innovative recreational trail corridor sharing to accommodate motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail use.
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Section 6(f)(3) of this Act is attached to projects acquired and/or developed with RTP grant assistance. This section prohibits the conversion of an RTP site to any use other than outdoor recreation.
Motorized Recreation -	Off-road recreation using any motorized vehicle. The most common modes are all-terrain vehicle (ATV), four-wheel drive (or other light utility vehicle), motorcycle, and snowmobile. The term excludes motorized wheelchairs as defined under "Wheelchair".
Nonmotorized Recreation	Off-road recreation by a nonmotorized mode. The most common modes are bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian, skate, and ski. A mobility-impaired person using a manual or motorized wheelchair shall be classified as a pedestrian.
Payment	The RTP is a reimbursable program where the project sponsor will incur costs and the state will reimburse eligible expenses that are properly documented.
Recreational Purpose	A project funded under this section is intended to enhance recreational opportunity and is not subject to section 138 of this title or section 303 of title 49. This allows the USDOT/FHWA to approve RTP projects that are located on land within publicly owned parks or recreation areas without requiring a waiver or other Section 4(f) documentation.
Recreational Trail	A thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes including, but not limited to, such uses as bicycling, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long-distance backpacking, roller skating, in-line skating, running, aquatic or water activity, and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive, or all-terrain off-road vehicles. The term "thoroughfare or track" excludes roads generally accessible by low clearance passenger vehicles, unless those roads are specifically designated for trail use by the managing agency, but includes high-clearance primitive roads.
RTP	Recreational Trail Program.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program. This plan is prepared and maintained by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). RTP projects that are not within an MPO's jurisdiction must be included within the STIP.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program. This is a plan that is prepared and maintained by the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). See Attachment I for the list of MPOs in Alabama.
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act	All RTP project sponsors must comply with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 to the extent applicable. This Act upholds the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution: ". . . <i>nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation</i> ". Regulations implementing this Act are found in 49 CFR Part 24. These regulations will be applied to evaluating the acquisition of real property and any potential displacement activities.
Wheelchair -	A wheeled device designed for and used by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, whether manual (propelled by human power) or motorized (self-propelled). A mobility-impaired person using a manual or motorized wheelchair shall be treated as a pedestrian.

MAXIMUM GRANT SIZE:

The maximum grant amount that can be applied for in any application is **\$80,000**. Only one application may be submitted by an applicant; however, an application may contain multiple sites and the non-federal matching share may exceed the minimum required to satisfy the federal matching requirement.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT:

The federal share for the RTP is **80%** of the total eligible project costs. The non-federal share may come from state, local, or private sources. Other federal grant funds cannot be included unless specific legislation allows them to be used for the matching share.

A federal agency project sponsor may contribute appropriated funds toward an RTP project up to the point where the total federal share reaches 95 percent of the project cost. The limitation is intended to ensure commitment to the project from state, local, or private co-sponsors.

Examples of other federal programs which may be used to match RTP funds include:

- State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-512).
- HUD Community Development Block Grants (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)
- Public Works Employment Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.)
- Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-692; 16 U.S.C. 461)
- Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 (29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.)
- National and Community Service State Grant Program (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193; 42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4607-8).
- Federal-aid highway program funds, such as the Federal Lands Highway Program, National Scenic Byways Program, and Transportation Enhancement Activities (23 U.S.C. 101 et seq.)
- Funds made available under the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
- Federal funds made available to Indian tribes.
- Challenge Cost-Share programs of Federal land management agencies.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES:

Private Organizations - examples include:

- youth conservation or service corps
 - youth clubs (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, etc.)
 - police athletic leagues
 - trail clubs or trail associations
 - land trusts
 - conservation organizations
 - utilities (such as private electric utilities offering public recreation areas)
 - private schools, colleges or universities
 - private operators of recreational facilities open to the public
- (Nothing in RTP legislation prohibits states from making grants to for-profit organizations.)

Municipal Agencies - examples include:

- city, town, township, village, borough, parish, or county agencies
- public education institutions such as school districts
- regional park or forest agencies
- public utilities (such as water and sewer districts or public electric utilities)
- public housing agencies

State Agencies - examples include:

- state park agencies
- state forest agencies
- state fish and game or wildlife agencies
- state public housing agencies
- state public education institutions (state schools, colleges, universities)

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES:

- Federal, state or local governmental agencies with an active RTP or LWCF grant that will not be closed by August 20, 2004.
- Federal, state or local governmental agencies that have an unresolved violation of LWCF regulations on a previously assisted recreation site as of August 20, 2004.
- State or local governmental entities that have unresolved issues with other programs administered by ADECA.
- Applicants that have not secured project concurrence letters from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alabama Historical Commission by the application deadline.

PERMISSIBLE USES:

Applications may be submitted for the following activities:

- Development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces. This category includes trail linkages to schools, parks, and existing trails.
- Maintenance of existing recreational trails.
- Restoration of areas damaged by usage of recreational trails and back country terrain. This component includes restoration of areas damaged by recreational uses that should have been on trails, but does not include restoration of areas damaged by nonrecreational means.
- Development of trail-side and trail-head facilities that meet goals identified by the National Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. This includes trail components or associated facilities which serve the purpose and safe use of the recreational trail and may include but are not limited to the following: 1) Drainage, 2) Crossings, 3) Stabilization, 4) Parking, 5) Signage, 6) Controls, 7) Shelters, and 8) Water, Sanitary, and Access Facilities.
- The provision of features which facilitate the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities.
- The acquisition of easements for trails, or for corridors identified in a state trail plan.
- The acquisition of fee simple title to property from a willing seller. The objective of the acquisition cannot be accomplished by acquisition of an easement or by other means.
- The construction of new trails on state, county, municipal, or private lands, where a recreational need for such construction is shown.
- Only as otherwise permissible, and where necessary and required by a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plan, construction of new trails crossing federal lands, where such construction is approved by the administering agency of the state, and the federal agency or agencies charged with management of all impacted lands, such approval to be contingent upon compliance by the federal agency with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600 et. Seq.), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701 et. Seq.).

USES NOT PERMITTED:

- Condemnation of any kind of interest in property.
- Construction of any recreational trail on National Forest System lands for motorized uses unless such lands—
 - I. have been allocated for uses other than wilderness by an approved Forest land and resource management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and
 - II. such construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in such approved land and resource management plan.
- Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to trails predominantly used by nonmotorized trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred.

RTP APPLICATION COVER SHEET

1) SPONSOR			2) PROJECT LOCATION CODES	
a. Name			a. Congressional Dist	
b. Organization			b. State House Dist	
c. Street/P.O. Box:			c. State Senate Dist	
d. City			d. Federal ID Number	
e. County				
f. Zip Code				
g. Contact Person				
h. E-mail address				
i. Phone/Fax Number				
3) PROPOSED OR EXISTING PROJECT SITE CONTROL				
a. Acres to be Purchased			f. Acres owned by Sponsor	
b. Acres to be Donated			g. Date Acquired (MM/YY)	
c. Acres to be Leased			h. Acres Leased by Sponsor	
d. ROW/Easement Purchased			i. Years Remaining on Lease	
e. Total Acquisition (Sum a:d)			j. Leased From?	
4) PROJECT TITLE:			(35 Characters Maximum)	
5) PROJECT DESCRIPTION:				
6) SOURCE OF PROJECT FUNDING				
SOURCE	TOTAL	CASH	DONATED LABOR OR EQUIPMENT	
a. RTP				
b. Sponsor				
c. Other				
TOTAL				
7) SOURCE OF PROJECT SPONSOR MATCHING SHARE:				
a. Park Revenue		%	d. Donated Labor & Equip	%
b. Bonds		%	e. General Fund	%
c. Cash Donations		%	f. Other Federal Programs	%
8) CERTIFICATION: The applicant certifies that the data contained in the attached application is true and correct; the application has been duly authorized; and, the applicant understands that incorrect or incomplete information may cause the application to be rejected.				
a. Typed Name and Title		b. Signature		c. Date

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please use this checklist to determine that all required parts of the application are included prior to submission to ADECA. Incomplete applications may not be rated.

• Transmittal letter signed by the applicant	
• Resolution from appropriate governing body authorizing submission of the application	
• Copy of Deed/Lease to Property	
• A signed application cover sheet (by Chief Elected Official)	
• Project budget	
• Environmental assessment: Concurrence from the Army Corps of Engineers Concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concurrence from the Alabama Historical Commission	
• Responses to application rating criteria	
• Maps: Property Boundary Area Map Preliminary Site Plan Site Location Map	
• Signed statement from private landowner expressing support (If Applicable)	
• Letters of endorsement (optional)	
• Concurrence letter from the appropriate Regional Planning Commission (If Applicable)	
• Letter transmitting the application to the MPO.	Not Required
• Approval to cross a public highway (If Applicable)	
• Approval to cross a public utility right-of-way (If Applicable)	
• Water obstruction & encroachment permit (If Applicable)	
• 1 ORIGINAL AND 2 COPIES OF THE APPLICATION TO: ADECA 401 Adams Ave. Montgomery, Alabama 36104 c/o Kate Hubert	

Please include a copy of this checklist with your application.

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM**

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

ADECA may provide moneys received under the RTP as grants to private individuals, organizations, city and county governments and other government entities as approved by the State after considering guidance from the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board" (ARTAB). **Private non-profit organizations that stipulate one of its primary objectives is public outdoor recreation may apply.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

The project application consists of the signed application cover sheet; assurances and certifications; environmental assessment; project budget; responses to the application rating criteria; and boundary, site, and location maps.

In addition, the project application must include the following support documentation:

- a. A transmittal letter signed by the applicant.
- b. A signed statement from affected private landowners stipulating that they fully support the proposed use of their land and stipulating their support for the project application. The statement must clearly indicate that he/she is willing to provide an easement or other legally binding agreement that ensures public access to the recreational trail improvements funded by the grant. (23 U.S.C.A. Section 206(h)(4)(A).
- c. Letters of endorsement from local or regional trail user groups. (recommended but not required)
- d. A resolution passed by the appropriate governing body authorizing the submission of the project application
- e. A signed statement that the proposed trail project is identified in, or furthers a specific goal of a trail plan or is included or referenced in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- f. If applicable, a signed statement that the project is in compliance with 23 U.S.C.A. Section 206(g)(4) of the RTP that prohibits the use of Grant funds to accommodate motorized use on trails that have been predominately used by non-motorized trail users prior to May 1, 1991
- g. If applicable, a signed statement by the federal agency that the construction of new trails crossing federal lands is in compliance with all applicable laws, including the Forest and Range-land Renewable Resources Planning Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- h. If construction of any recreation trail on Bureau of Land Management or National Forest System lands for motorized uses is proposed, a signed statement certifying that the lands have been allocated for uses other than wilderness in the approved agency resources management plan or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress, and such construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in such approved land and resources management plan
- i. Applicants located in metropolitan areas with a population of 50,000 or more should submit their RTP project to the applicable Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Attachment A includes a list of MPOs for each area in the state, including contact person, address, and telephone numbers. Applicants should include a project description, location of the project, approximate budget, and any additional information that their MPO may require in order to amend their Transportation Improvement Plan.
- j. Site and boundary area map(s) showing the area of acquisition or trail construction.
- k. Concurrence letter from the appropriate Regional Planning Commission if required.
- l. If the project involves any of the following, contact ADECA program staff for the procedure to follow:
 - The crossing of any public highway
 - The crossing of any railroad, gas line, power line, or other utility right-of-way
 - A stream crossing
 - Encroachment on any wetland area

SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE PERMITS OR OTHER APPROVALS

(1) Crossing of Public Roads

Project applicants must include a statement or copies of letters certifying that the appropriate officials having jurisdiction over the public road where this trail crosses have reviewed this project and that the proposed crossing meets their approval. For state road crossings, contact the appropriate Alabama Highway Department, District Office. For all other classified roads, contact the street or highway department of the jurisdiction.

(2) Railroad, Gas Line, Power Line and Other Utility Rights-of-Way

Project applicants must include documentation indicating that appropriate officials from the railroad company and/or utility company have reviewed their project and that the proposed crossing meets their approval.

(3) Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (including Wetlands)

Project applicants planning to construct, operate, maintain, enlarge, or abandon any obstruction (bridge, channel change, etc.) that will affect a watercourse, its 100-year floodway or any lake, pond, reservoir, swamp, marsh or wetland, must contact ADECA or the applicable federal agency. Examples of work requiring a permit include changing a stream channel, dredging for crossings; building or modifying a bridge, dock, culvert, or pier; installing or changing an intake or outfall structure; working on bank protection, including fill, levees, dikes, bulkheads, and flood walls; or placing an aerial crossing, such as a power line, over a navigable stream.

Any state or local government agency or public utility working in a 100-year flood plain, which has been identified by the National Flood Insurance Program, must also consult with ADECA before proceeding with its application.

(4) Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan

In addition, project applicants may be required to prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan for stream crossings or general construction activities. Therefore, project applicants must notify the appropriate County Soil Conservation District Office of the project. The district office will advise the applicant accordingly.

(5) Building Permits

Follow existing procedures for compliance with local building codes.

(6) Health Department Permits

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA
FY 2005 RATING CRITERIA**

1. Describe the project's scope, feasibility and how it meets the project area's recreational needs.
2. Describe the degree to which project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes including, but not limited to, trails that are designed and managed to accommodate any combination of trail use including bicycling, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight or long-distance backpacking; aquatic or water activities; and, vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive or all-terrain off-road vehicles.
3. Describe the degree to which the project provides a new, unique or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public.
4. Describe the degree to which project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged and other special populations or groups.
5. Describe the degree to which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area.
6. Describe the degree to which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials, as well as dollars.)
7. Community Involvement—please address the following:
 - a) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group, and
 - b) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposal idea and has made commitments of labor, money or materials to support proposal implementation.
8. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail after it is completed and identify who will be responsible for the work.
9. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multiuse), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership.
10. Describe how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling.

PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

The Recreational Trails Program provides **80/20 matching** fund grants. That is, the RTP will fund 80 percent of the project cost and the grant recipient must provide the other 20 percent in the form of cash, in-kind or donated contributions.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

1. design and engineering services performed by an outside consultant (only those costs incurred after a signed agreement—not to exceed 10% of the eligible project cost).
2. direct labor
3. special tradesmen secured under a service purchase contract
4. rental of equipment
5. construction contracts
6. project materials
7. signage¹
8. land acquisition

PROJECT DEVELOPOMENT BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	TOTAL	RTP SHARE	MATCHING SHARE
Acquisition			
Construction Contracts			
Equipment Rental			
Labor			
Signage			
Supplies/Materials			
Engineering			
TOTAL PROJECT COST			

¹ Signs which function as traffic control devices must conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Part IX of the MUTCD, Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities, covers the bicycle related signs, pavement markings, and signals which may be used on highways or bikeways. Part IX is applicable to shared use paths (nonmotorized multiple-use trails which may provide a transportation purpose). The publication Standard Highway Signs has the detailed drawings for the highway signs prescribed in the MUTCD. These documents are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Signs which do not function as traffic control devices are not subject to the MUTCD. However, informational signs and kiosks must take into consideration the needs of various users, such as: people who are blind or who have low vision, people who use wheelchairs, and children.

Public Employee Costs

To verify allowable costs for state and local government employees, see OMB Circular A-87

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-10350.htm>. Public labor is **not** volunteer or a donation. If a public employee is paid for time on a project, then the labor would be counted as part of the project cost (provided the labor is an appropriate allowable cost under OMB Circular A-87).

It is not an "in-kind donation" since money is paid to the employee.² However, the dollar value of the employee's time may be counted toward the project sponsor's matching funds. For federal agency sponsors the value of a federal employee's time may be counted toward the federal agency's share.

² Example: Given a \$62,500 RTP project, where \$31,250 is the allowable cost for right-of-way and materials and \$31,250 is allowable for public agency labor, then of the total \$62,500 cost, the federal share payable from the RTP is \$50,000. The public agency pays \$62,500 in cash (for right-of-way, materials, and labor) and submits a voucher for a \$50,000 reimbursement.

Given a \$62,500 project where \$31,250 is for materials, \$21,875 is allowable public labor, and \$9,375 is the allowable value of private volunteer labor, the federal share payable from the RTP is still \$50,000. The public agency pays \$53,125 cash, claims the \$9,375 value of the private volunteer labor, and submits a voucher for \$50,000.

Given a \$62,500 project where \$12,500 is for materials, \$18,750 is privately donated materials, \$12,500 is allowable public labor, and \$18,750 is private volunteer labor, in this case, the federal RTP payment is limited to \$25,000, because the cash outlay was only \$25,000. This would be a case of the private in-kind match exceeding the federal share.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

1. PROJECT NAME: _____
2. LOCATION (city, county or counties) _____
3. APPLICANT: _____

4. Type of Project (Check the most appropriate option (only one) from the following categories)

A. Non-motorized Trail

- ☐ **Nonmotorized project for a single use:** A project primarily intended to benefit only one mode of nonmotorized recreational trail use, such as pedestrian only, or equestrian only. Projects serving various pedestrian uses (such as walking, hiking, wheelchair use, running, bird-watching, nature interpretation, backpacking, etc.) constitute a single use for the purposes of this category.

B. Motorized Trail

- ☐ **Motorized single use project:** A project primarily intended to benefit only one mode of motorized recreational use, such as a snowmobile trail grooming. A project may be classified in this category if the project also benefits some nonmotorized uses (it is not necessary to exclude nonmotorized uses), but the primary intent must be for the benefit of motorized use.
- ☐ **Motorized diverse use project:** A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of motorized recreational use, such as: motorcycle and ATV use; or ATV use in the summer and snowmobile use in winter. A project may be classified in this category if the project also benefits some nonmotorized uses (it is not necessary to exclude nonmotorized uses), but the primary intent must be for the benefit of motorized use.

C. Diversified Trail

- ☐ **Diverse motorized use project including both motorized and nonmotorized uses:** A project intended to benefit both nonmotorized recreational trail use **and** motorized recreational trail use. This category includes projects where motorized use is permitted, but is not the predominant beneficiary. This category includes projects where motorized and nonmotorized uses are separated by season, such as equestrian use in summer and snowmobile use in winter. Another example involves the development of a common trailhead that serves separate ATV and bicycle trails.
- ☐ **Nonmotorized diverse use project:** A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of nonmotorized recreational trail use such as: walking, bicycling, and inline skating; or both pedestrian and equestrian use; equestrian and bicycle use, etc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
FOR
RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROJECT**

County: _____

Project Location: _____

Project Sponsor/Applicant: _____

Project Description: _____

Concurrence from Alabama Historical Commission attached?	Yes ___	No ___
Concurrence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services attached?	Yes ___	No ___
Concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attached?	Yes ___	No ___
Was the property acquired before January 1992?	Yes ___	No ___
If "No" explain property acquisition process (Use additional sheets if necessary):		

Note: If any of the letters of compliance are missing—do not submit the application.

**REQUIRED LETTERS OF COMPLIANCE
AND RELEASE OF CONDITIONS**

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mobile District Corps of Engineers

Mr. Art Hosey, Chief
Regulatory Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001
Phone: 251-690-2658

Nashville District Corps of Engineers

Western Regulatory Field Office
2042 Beltline Road SW
Building C, Suite 415
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Phone Number: 256-350-5620
Fax Number: 256-350-5499

• **ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Ms. Stacye Hathorn
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
Phone: 334-242-3184

• **US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Mr. Larry Goldman, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone: 251-441-5181 Ex. 30

LOCATION AND VICINITY MAPS

PROJECT LOCATION MAP: The project location map must display the location of the project in relation to the city or county area and the surrounding highway/road network. This map must be sufficiently detailed so that State or Federal officials who visit the site can do so without local assistance. If the project is within a municipality, a detailed city map showing the highway network in relation to the project site will be sufficient. Please make sure the maps are clear and concise.

PRELIMINARY SITE MAP

SITE PLANS: The site plan should give a general layout of the park or area to be developed and include the following items:

- proposed facilities and development included in the phase for which LWCF assistance is being requested;
- existing facilities;
- future development--if known;
- location of any existing power lines or other utilities within the site boundary area;
- the location and measurements of any easements or rights-of-way;
- the location of floodplain if applicable;
- the site acreage to nearest tenth of an acre;
- the title block information including the title of the project, north arrow, scale, and date prepared.

Maps and drawings must be clear and legible; and, no larger than 11"x14" if possible.

Upon project completion, an as-built-site plan will be required for all RTP assisted projects. The Applicant should inform the architect/engineer of this requirement prior to entering into a contract.

PROPERTY OR PROJECT BOUNDARY AREA MAP

An application must include a boundary map which delineates the legal boundaries of the property to be developed. A boundary map must contain the following information:

- Project title.
- Date of map preparation.
- Signature of person that prepared the map and the signature of the applicant certifying the Section 6(f)(3) boundary.
- Known outstanding rights and interests that are held by others such as easements, deed/lease restrictions, reversionary interest, i.e., power lines that cross the site, rights-of-way, etc.
- Deed reference--book and page number.
- Sufficient detail so as to legally identify the land:
 - a. adjoining water bodies or other natural landmarks
 - b. bearings and distances (required)
 - c. identification of adjacent streets, roads, and highways
 - d. north arrow
 - e. a scale stated in feet per inch
- Project sponsor name

Photostatic copies, which alter the scale, are not acceptable.

ATTACHMENT I

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

HUNTSVILLE AREA

Mr. Dallas Fanning, Director
Huntsville Planning Department
Municipal Building
308 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

(256) 632-7353 (Fax: 256-535-4236)

TUSCALOOSA AREA

Mr. Robert B. Lake, Exec. Director
West Alabama Planning
and Development Council
4200 Highway 69 N. Suite 1
Northport, Alabama 35476

(205) 333-2990 (Fax: 205-333-2713)

SHOALS AREA

Mr. Keith Jones, Director
Northwest Alabama Council
of Local Governments
103 Student Drive
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35661

(256) 389-0515 (Fax: 256-381-0867)

MOBILE AREA

Mr. Russell J. Wimberly, Director
South Alabama Regional
Planning Commission
651 Church Street
Mobile, Alabama 36633

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ATTACHMENT II**ADA ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES**

All projects are required to be planned/designed to comply with the "American Standard Specifications for making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped."

New regulations being finalized will affect all of us who plan and design trails. The final report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas proposes ADA Accessibility Guidelines (**ADAAG**) for trails, outdoor recreational access routes, beach access routes, and picnic and camping facilities. This report is available at: www.accessboard.gov. The following questions and answers cover the highlights of the trail guidelines:

First, what exactly is a trail according to ADA regulations?

A trail is "a route that is designed, designated, or constructed for recreational pedestrian use or provided as an pedestrian alternative to vehicular routes within a transportation system."

What kinds of trails are subject to the ADA regulations?

The accessibility guidelines apply to those trails which are designed and constructed for pedestrian use. These guidelines are not applicable to trails primarily designed and constructed for recreational use by equestrians, mountain bicyclists, snowmobile users, or off-highway vehicle users, even if pedestrians may occasionally use the same trails. However, a multi-use trail specifically designed and designated for hiking and bicycling would be considered a pedestrian trail.

Does that mean an urban bikeway is a "pedestrian trail"?

Accessibility guidelines apply to trails used as nonmotorized transportation facilities for bicyclists and skaters as well as pedestrians. However, the AASHTO Guide (1999), generally required of TEA-21-funded projects, requires a greater level of accessibility than the ADA trail guidelines. The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities is the primary guidebook for facilities built with transportation funds. The Guide (available for \$30 from AASHTO at 202-624-5800, 800-231-3475, or www.aashto.org/bookstore/a_bs.html) generally provides a greater level of accessibility than the ADA trail guidelines (except running slope). The appendix of the Access Board report compares the AASHTO guide with the ADA trail guidelines.

Will we have to bring existing trails up to ADA standards?

No; the proposed guidelines require all areas of newly designed or newly constructed and altered portions of existing trails to comply.

Must we improve accessibility when trail maintenance is done?

Routine or periodic maintenance or repair of existing trails or trail segments is exempt. Maintenance and repair is defined as work that is not an alteration: it does not change the original purpose, intent, or design of the trail.

Can we be required to allow vehicles on our non-motorized trails to accommodate accessibility?

No; while a variety of mobility-enhancing equipment can be used on trails, the necessity of protecting the environment and maintaining the appropriateness of the setting might exclude ATVs or other off-highway vehicles.

Does an accessible trail have to be paved?

No, as long as the surface is "firm and stable."

What about new trails that are nowhere near a road or an accessible trailhead?

The requirements apply only to trails that "connect to an accessible trail" or "designated trailhead." Where new trails connect to an existing trail that is not accessible, the technical provisions do not apply. Nor do they apply where the new or altered portion is not connected to a designated trailhead.

What if building a trail to an accessible standard just isn't logical, or desirable, or even possible?

Departures from the guidelines are permitted for any portion of the trail where compliance would:

1. cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics;
2. substantially alter the nature of the setting or the purpose;
3. require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local regulations or statutes;
4. not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

(A lower standard, or exception, is allowed under certain conditions as noted.)

Clear tread width:	36" (exception: 32")
Openings:	½" max. (exception: ¾")
Tread Obstacles:	2" high max.
Exceptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" high where running slope and cross slope are 5% or less • 1" max where running or cross slope are greater than 5%

Running Slope (trail grade):

MAX DISTANCE	MAX RUN	EXCEPTION
any distance	5%	8%
50'	8%	12% *
30'	10% *	14% *
5'	14% *	16% *

- NOTE 1: Running slope greater than 5% not permitted where the cross slope exceeds 5%

Cross Slope

MAX DISTANCE	MAX CROSS SLOPE	Note: Cross slope greater than 5% not permitted where the running slope exceeds 5%
any distance	5%	
10'	8%	
5'	12%	

For detailed information on accessible trails, the new ADA regulations, and how they apply to specific situations, see the American Trails website:

www.outdoorlink.com/amtrails. Click on the "Resources & Library" icon, then click on "Accessible Trails."

The following manuals and guidelines are recommended for trail design, construction and maintenance. Copies may be purchased or acquired from the source indicated. U.S. Government regulations may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG); available in U.S. DOT regulations, 49 CFR Part 37. Also, an *Interim Final Rule* was published in the *Federal Register*, June 20, 1994 (59 FR 31676; 31745); from: U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), 1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. The *Interim Final Rule* included Section 14, "Public Rights of Way," much of which would be applicable to the Trails Program, if adopted by the U.S. DOT. FHWA intends to develop program guidance for accommodating people with disabilities largely based on Section 14.

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefitting from Federal Financial Assistance; available in U.S. DOT regulations, 49 CFR Part 27 (44 FR 31442). This implements Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) as amended, to the end that no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services; available in U.S. Department of Justice regulations, 28 CFR Part 35 (56 FR 35694). This implements subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities; available in U.S. Department of Justice regulations, 28 CFR Part 36 (56 FR 35544). This implements title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations and requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with the accessibility standards established by this part.

Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, published in the *Federal Register*, August 7, 1984 (49 FR 31528); from the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), 1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004- 1111.

Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Recreational Facilities and Outdoor Developed Areas, July 1994, a report to the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board by the Recreation Access Advisory Committee, from: Access Board, Recreation Report, 1331 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004- 1111. The Access Board is currently developing proposed guidelines for recreation facilities.

**ATTACHMENT III
RECREATION DEMAND/PERCIEVED NEEDS TABLES
BY REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT**